(ii) BSNL is deploying WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) network in rural areas to meet the demand of telephone connections beyond 5.0 Kms. of telephone exchange i.e. scattered and far-flung rural areas and where telephone connection is not possible on landlines.

(iii) BSNL is deploying its mobile network to cover gaps in existing coverage and additional requirements based on customer requirements besides covering villages with population 5000 and above. In now planned expansion, BSNL plan to cover villages with population 1000 and above.

(d) The rural tele-density in Orissa State/Circle, as on 31.10.2006, is 1.15%. Total rural DELs (Direct Exchange Lines) in Orissa Circle as on 31.10.2006 are 3.81 lakhs.

The action plan to improve tele-density in rural areas of Orissa circle is given below:—

(i) Opening of five new telephone exchanges.

(ii) Installation of 50,000 lines of WLL equipment, which is received and installation is in progress.

(iii) Installation of 74 Nos. of WLL BTS (Base Trans-receiver Station) of 23,500 lines capacity for which order had been placed and supply of the equipment is awaited.

(iv) Installation of 116 CDMA (Code Division Multi Access) WLL BTS (MSC based) of capacity 50,000 lines which has been allotted for further expansion to cover the uncovered villages.

The funds required to undertake the above action plan will be made available.

Security concerns in Telecom Sector

889. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to withhold its decision to hike FDI in telecom to 74 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the security concerns arising from increasing FDI was one of the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government notified Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for enhancement of FDI ceiling from 49% to 74% in telecom sector *vide* Press Note No. 5 (2005 series) dated 3.11.2005. The Government has received a number of representations from stakeholders on various aspects of the said policy such as remote access, transfer of accounting information, appointment of resident Indian citizens at key positions of management etc. In view of the above, the Government is reviewing various conditions in the Press Note No. 5 (2005 Series) to enable a sustainable growth in Telecom sector and also the IT sector which is dependent on telecom.

Rural Community Phones

890. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) provided by the private telecom operators in the country as per the contractual obligation;

(b) the total number of villages where RCPs were to be provided vis-a-vis the actual number of RCPs provided by the Private operators as on the 31st March, 2006;

(c) whether Government have taken stringent measures against the private operators who have violated their contractual obligation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL) is the only private telecom operator providing Rural Community Phones (RCPs). The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL) in September, 2004 to provide 21,459 RCPs in